

Southend, Leigh, Shoebury YellowAdvertiser



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Week ending Friday December 4, 2015



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BONKERS FOR BOOK FESTIVAL

EXCLUSIVE

By Charles Thomson

basildon@yellowad.co.uk

SOUTHEND will be better represented at next year's Essex Book Festival than ever before, its director has confirmed.

Ros Green, who took over the festival last year, told the YA that Southend would host more events in the month-long programme than almost anywhere else in the country.

Events have also been lined up in Basildon, Rayleigh, Canvey Island and South Woodham Ferrers.

She said: "The south of the county is extremely well-represented this year, I have to say."

"Southend I see as a really fundamental hub for this festival. I know it wasn't like that in the past, but it did change last year when I took it over. There were 15 events last year in the immediate Southend area. People in Colchester were saying to me, 'Why is everything happening in Southend?'"

Ms Green said she had to remain tight-lipped until the programme launch in January, but did reveal details of a weekend-long crime fiction event which will take place

in Southend. On March 5 the Park Inn Palace Hotel will host two panel discussions about the "golden age of crime fiction", to mark 50 years since the death of legendary Essex crime writer Margery Allingham.

The panels will discuss work by Mrs Allingham, Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers.

A third panel discussion on the same day will discuss international crime writing.

Panellists from Poland, Sweden and Nigeria will join British writers for the discussion.

Up the road, at The Forum, the Essex Police Museum will be running detective workshops for children.

In the evening the Palace will host screenings of two classic crime movies – An Inspector Calls from 1954 and 1961's Murder She Said. Viewers will be encouraged to attend in fancy dress and sample "poison" cocktails.

On Sunday, March 6 – Mother's Day – the Palace will host a crime-writing masterclass by Erin Kelly, whose novel The Poison Tree, was turned into an ITV drama and nominated for a CWA Dagger Award.

● Turn to page 15



Let
there
be
lights

WIND and rain failed to dampen festive spirits at the Christmas Lights switch-on on Friday.

The traditional bad weather arrived on cue for the town event that regularly suffers the elements raining on its parade.

Turn to page 7 for more

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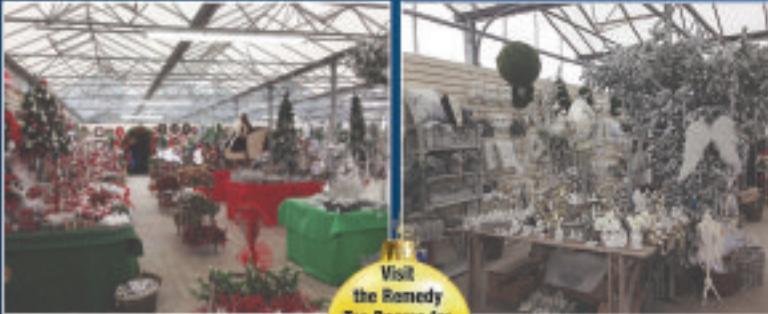
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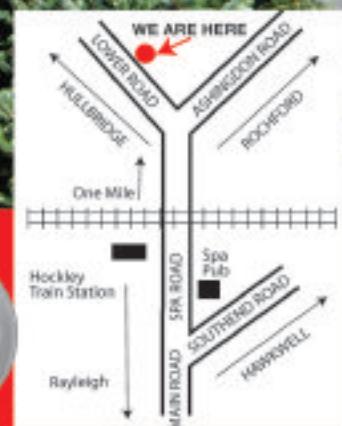
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Hotel collapse probed

Victorian building caved in suddenly after the start of renovation work

THE demolition of Leigh's historic Bell Hotel has been described by Southend planners as "devastating" to the town's architectural heritage.

Southend Council said on Tuesday that it was working with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to investigate the collapse of the hotel's roof a week previously.

Local roads were closed, and the damage resulted in the Victorian building – which was being redeveloped into luxury flats – being demolished. It had been built in 1854.

Cllr Martin Terry, executive councillor for housing, planning and regulatory services, said: "The collapse of the Bell Hotel comes as a devastating blow to Leigh's architectural heritage and the tireless efforts of many local people over the past decade to preserve its role within the town."

"However, in light of the immediate danger that the collapse of the building posed to the public on Wednesday, I would like to thank the emergency services and council's building control and highways officers for their swift action in closing the road and ensuring neighbours remained out of harm's way."

In a formal statement released by the council on Tuesday, Cllr Terry said that although investigations were ongoing, there was no indication of breaches in planning control relating to the collapse.

He added: "We are also working with the HSE as part of their investigations,



although at this stage we are not aware of any breach of planning control.

"We continue to work with the developers to ensure any future proposals for the site are brought forward with imagination and vision."

"We must ensure any new building on this site contributes at least as much to the town's heritage as we have lost from

its demise.

"Luckily, we are well placed to achieve this. We have an expert team of planners who have just been named 'local authority planning team of the year' by the Royal Town Planners Institute, and who have advised the applicant to submit a revised planning application to rebuild the structure on the site."

"We are confident together we can give Leigh Hill a new landmark as a lasting legacy of the Bell."

Hutton Construction had been renovating the landmark hotel within the Leigh conservation area on behalf of developer Ben Levy. Leigh Hill, Leigh Park Road and New Road have remained closed to traffic.

SOUTHEND Airport has been named the best in the UK.

The service scooped first place at the Airport Operators Association (AOA) Annual Awards on Monday.

This latest prize comes soon after London Southend Airport scooped the title of 'Best Airport in Britain' from Which? magazine for the third year running.

The AOA award was decided by a survey of members of The Board of Airline Representatives and British Air Transport Association.

Glyn Jones, chief executive officer of Stobart Aviation, which owns Southend Airport, collected the trophy at a ceremony in London.

He said: "To win another 'Best Airport in Britain' is superb news and once again testament to all the hard work that the team at London Southend has put in.

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SUSPECT : An e-fit of a man wanted by police in connection with an armed robbery in Stone Hill Road last month



Police hunt for suspect following armed robbery

POLICE have released an e-fit image of a man wanted in connection with an armed robbery.

Two men tried to smash their way into a house on Stone Hill Road, Leigh on Sea, with an axe.

The victim, aged 44, told police the pair had knocked on his door at roughly

ly 9pm on Sunday, November 15.

They asked for somebody he hadn't heard of and demanded money and tried to force their way into his home.

When he closed the door, they hit it with an axe and smashed a glass pane before running off.

The first robber was black, aged 16

to 20, roughly 6'0" tall, slim, and had a goatee beard.

He wore a padded jacket and is depicted in the police e-fit, left.

The second attacker was white, aged 16 to 20, roughly 5'8" and of 'slight' build.

He had short, light-brown hair and

wore a grey hooded top, with a black and grey scarf over his head.

Police have urged anyone who recognises the man in the e-fit or who has any other information on the crime to call Southend police station on 101, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

What do you think? Write to Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH, or e-mail letters@yellowad.co.uk

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COMPETITION

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event for you and your wedding party.

Don't forget to pick up your free goody bag, packed with lots of exciting products and a free show guide, so that you can contact your favourite exhibitors after the show.

For further information and advance tickets visit www.theukweddingshows.co.uk or call the ticket hotline on 0844 874 0787.

To win one of 20 pairs of tickets to the show, valid for either day, just answer the following question.

Q: In which month will The London ExCeL Wedding Show be taking place?

A: January

B: February

C: March

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Lines close on Thursday, December 10. Entries received after the closing date will not be counted but may still be charged.

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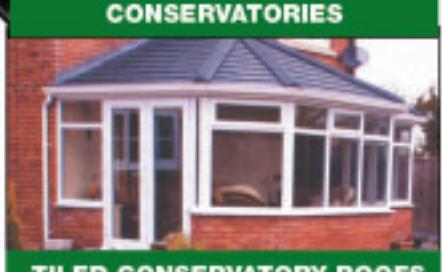
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Footie stars switch on Christmas lights

THOUSANDS of people braved wind and rain to watch the Christmas lights switch-on in Leigh on Friday night.

A big parade featuring people in colourful costumes set off from the junction of Leigh Road and Kings Road before moving along Leigh Road and Broadway and finishing in Broadway West.

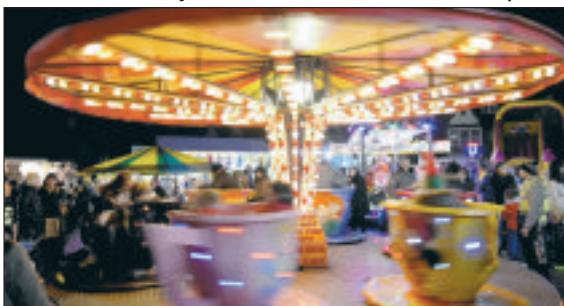
Shoppers took advantage of a Christmas-themed market place in Elm Road, while youngsters enjoyed fairground rides in the car park behind the Grand.

Thousands more then flocked to Rayleigh High Street to see the town's Christmas lights illuminate the night sky.

Southend United players, manager Phil Brown, as well as Steve Scruton and Ian Wyatt from BBC Essex and town crier Jim Shrub, jostled to throw the all-important switch.



COLOURFUL: Mickey and Minnie Mouse on the Christmas parade



TEACUPS: The fairground in Leigh was popular with children



GRUB: Mince pies for sale at the lights switch-on



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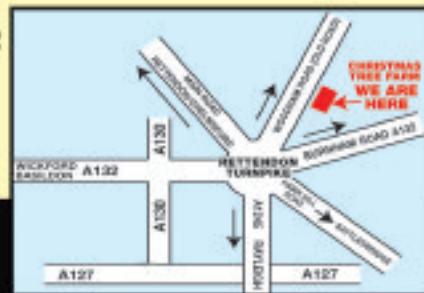
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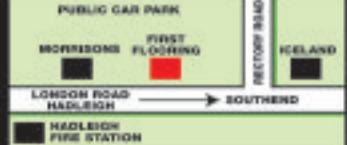


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Police misconduct

CHARLES THOMSON

southend@yellowad.co.uk

POLICE officers in Essex have been investigated over alleged sexual assault, racism, homophobia and 'breaching' of computer systems.

The allegations were contained in a quarterly Essex Police misconduct report, presented to chief constable Stephen Kavanagh by the Force's Professional Standards Department.

The document, cleared for release in late November, revealed that between April and June this year, 333 complaints were filed against officers, and a further 54 were made about staff members.

They included one allegation of sexual assault, 25 allegations of assault and seven claims of 'irregularity in evidence' or 'perjury'.

Seven officers and two staff members were accused of 'improper disclosure of information' and there were 25 allegations of 'oppressive conduct'.

The document stated, as of June 30, there were 11 ongoing investigations into reported 'discriminatory behaviour'.

The Force was subject to five claims of racism, one claim of religious discrimination and two claims of homophobia.

The other three claims alleged discrimination on grounds of mental health, disability and gender.

In the same period, 20 officers were sanctioned after complaints against them were upheld.

They included an inspector and two detective constables who received 'management action' for breaching search-and-seizure rules, and eight constables, two sergeants and one staff member who were sanctioned for 'neglect of duty'.

Two officers were sacked after making false entries in a domestic violence report.

The report revealed details of several 'significant' new allegations made against the Force between April and June.

One officer has been suspended from duty following an allegation of 'inappropriate contact with a witness'.

Another officer was placed on restricted duties while he was under investigation over alleged 'inappropriate contact with females'.

A criminal investigation was also launched after an officer 'was found to have breached



police computer systems without a valid policing purpose'.

A further officer was arrested, bailed and suspended from duty following a 'domestic abuse incident'.

A section in the report about ongoing complaints revealed an officer faced a misconduct hearing over their use of force and a special chief inspector received a final warning for 'verbally abusing members of the public, having identified himself as an officer'.

A special constable resigned while subject to an investigation over alleged indecent conduct.

Another special constable – who cannot be named due to a court gagging order – was charged with abusing his position after being arrested by the Metropolitan Police over an alleged 'inappropriate relationship with a minor in the course of the officer's civilian occupation'.

Between April and June, seven per cent of finalised complaints were marked 'proven' or 'upheld', while a further 26 per cent were 'not proven'.

Fifteen per cent were 'withdrawn', nine per cent were 'disapplied' and 44 per cent were 'locally resolved'.

In the same period, 39 certificates of merit and 17 commendations were handed to the Force's officers, alongside two awards from the Royal Humane Society.



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History is literally carved into their furniture and stonework and, amid the excitement of Christmas, churches also offer calm respite from the excesses of the festive season.

The hamlet of Bures on the Essex/Suffolk border can also claim to be one of the most

important sites in English history. On Christmas Day in 855, Edmund was crowned King of the Angles at 'Burra', what is now believed to be Bures. The site of Edmund's coronation was an ancient royal hill, upon which now stands St Stephen's Chapel.

Intrepid visitors to the now disused chapel will be rewarded for seeking it out. Lying about a mile outside the village and accessed via a track through Fysh House Farm, the chapel contains the effigies of three Earls of Oxford, the only



OLDEST CHURCH: St Andrews in Greensted. is believed to be where the body of the martyred King Edmund body was rested on its journey to Suffolk in 870 AD.

survivors of twenty-one tombs once found at Earls Colne Priory.

Experts have speculated that there are actually not three but seven monuments that make up what can be seen today. The confusion in trying to piece together the tombs was probably caused by the destruction of the original Priory during the Reformation.

You can continue Edmund's story at St Andrews in Greensted.

This is the oldest wooden church in the world and is believed to be where the body of the martyred King Edmund body was rested on its journey to Suffolk in 870 AD.

Fans of the current BBC2 series The Last Kingdom will recall that St Edmund was beaten and then shot with arrows, after St Sebastian, by invading Danish Vikings. Dating from the 11th century, the wooden walls of this tiny church were already standing when William the Conqueror landed at Hastings in 1066.

However there are traces of earlier foundations beneath the present ones, giving credence to the story about St Edmund.

The brickwork of the chancel and sanctuary is from Tudor times, and the tower from the 17th century. The ancient grave slab on the right of the porch is thought to mark a crusader's grave. For more ideas and inspiration about Essex's houses of the holy, please go to www.visit'essex.com

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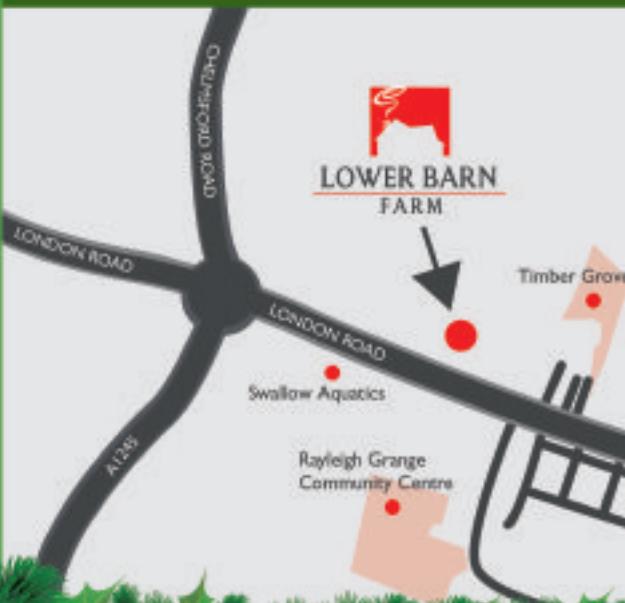
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The cafe has been very successful being nominated and coming second in Fine food awards for the best family dining.

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We have created our own in house marketing department and are investing in improving our brand which has included a suite of changes to departmental logos and colour scheme plus new uniforms.

We are not finished yet as we hope that our new Lower Barn Farm website will be live in the coming weeks. This will highlight the special offers that we currently have and events that are upcoming here.

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Book festival

From front page

Another event, A is for Arsenic, will explore poisons used in famous murder mysteries by authors, before a 1940s afternoon tea featuring Lindy Hop dancers and an on stage conversation between crime authors Paul Willetts and Cathi Unsworth.

Ms Green said details of more March events across South Essex, including at Basildon Library, would be announced on January 6.

Big names announced to appear elsewhere in the county so far include artist Grayson Perry, former Lib Dem MP Vince Cable and actor Simon Callow.

Ms Green said she was trying to expand the festival's reach not only geographically, but demographically.

She said: "We want people of all ages and from all communities to be involved. Because it's a county-wide, month-long festival, and it's unique in the UK for being that, I think there's potential for it to reach parts other festivals can't reach. It's a massive opportunity. I'm really excited."

Author welcomes news

SOUTHEND author Syd Moore has welcomed news that the Essex Book Festival will have a greater presence in the south of the county.

The festival has previously been criticised by authors of being too focused on Chelmsford and Colchester.

Ms Moore, author of bestseller The Drowning Pool, criticised the divide in 2013.

She said: "It's south Essex that suffers most, and unfairly, from the 'Essex boy/girl', 'cultural desert' stereotype. Whenever I have done readings and events in south Essex I have found them incredibly well-supported.

"People down here are reading and writing furiously. We need to be seen as part of Essex as a whole,

rather than the poor relatives."

Responding to news that south Essex would host more events than ever, including the Southend crime weekend, Ms Moore said: "This is really good news. I saw the festival director Ros Green last week and she said how brilliant it was that she was doing things in Southend. She is very familiar with Southend because she used to run the Polish Arts Festival here and she loves it.

"I think crime fiction is a brilliant subject to be bringing here because it's so popular. As the event is all about the golden age of crime, I think it will be really nice to have it at the Palace Hotel with its 1920s exterior – standing on those iron balconies and looking out over the estuary."



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Cop dismissed

By Charles Thomson

basildon@yellowad.co.uk

A POLICE officer has been sacked for 'gross misconduct' over a bungled rape case.

PC Mark Smith (badge 73323) was fired on Thursday after a misconduct hearing at Basildon Magistrates Court.

Deputy Chief Constable Julia Wortley chaired the meeting and ruled that PC Smith had breached professional standards of honesty, integrity, duties and responsibilities.

She said he had engaged in 'discreditable conduct'.

Essex Police said Smith, from the Harlow and Loughton Local Policing Team, was called to a disturbance in Harlow on January 10, where a rape allegation was made.

Although he made an arrest at the scene, Smith 'failed to deal with the allegation of rape and subsequently did not follow force policy around the handling of sexual offences'.

He was dismissed without notice after yesterday's hearing.

Deputy Chief Constable Wortley said: "PC Smith failed to fulfil his duties towards a vulnerable woman who disclosed she had been the victim of a serious crime."

"The officer acted without honesty and integrity, which are fundamental values that police officers need to uphold to maintain public confidence."

"The public can be reassured that there is no place in Essex Police for people who breach the standards of professional behaviour in this way."

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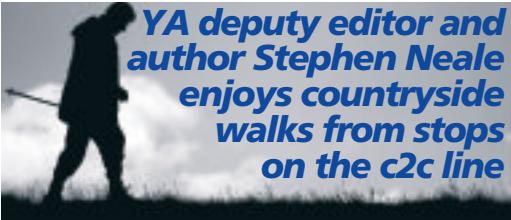
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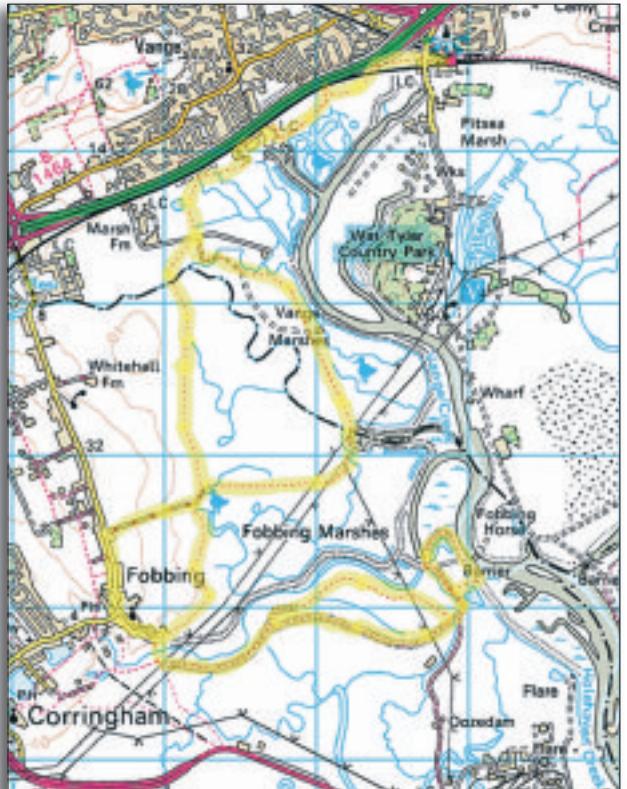
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I Walk the Line



YA deputy editor and author Stephen Neale enjoys countryside walks from stops on the c2c line



The Phantom of Fobbing

NOTHING lasts forever. To this day, home owners are finding and removing tiny bottles of urine and hair, hidden in the walls of old Fobbing houses hundreds of years ago to keep out bad spirits.

I can't vouch for the power of witchcraft, but admit to feeling it, having walked to a phantom waterway from Pitsea Station, on Tuesday.

Fobbing Creek was dyked and drained after the 1953 great flood claimed 58 lives at Canvey.

The tidal channel once serviced the port at the end of what is now Mr and Mrs Stubbs' sunken garden, in Wharf Road.

Hiking the seawall, spirits of a nautical past fill my head. Bullrushes bend in the waterless, windy shallows, and I imagine Thames Barges floating up creek towards St Michael's Church. Like an itch on an amputated leg, the trappings of tide, flood the subconscious of the land, helped by the fact that this is still salt marsh.

Male dragonflies – blood-red with autumn rage – flick around the sloes and hawthorn like tired, old men looking for a warm place to rest before dying. Yellow ragwort runs over the pasture that has grown thick in the silt. Brown hares and pheasants zig-zag behind mounds that were once home to crabs and bass.

EDGELAND: Starlings roost in pylons on Fobbing Marsh



Walking east from Wharf Road, the nearest waterline is a 1.4-mile hike. Dumper-trucks bleep from Pitsea Tip, reversing on the easterly breeze from across Hole Haven Creek. The towers of DP World Port and the Shell Haven refinery climb to the south. A man-made edgeland: where wild meets west.

Strings of pylon carry power north-east to Hockley, their ugliness pacified by thousands of noisy starlings roosting in the steel as the sun falls over London. There is the still the 'super' and 'natural', about Fobbing Creek. More so now perhaps;

WALK 2: Pitsea Station/Fobbing Marsh
Start/Finish Point: Latitude 51.560418 Longitude 0.50603628
DISTANCE: 10 miles
TIME: 3-4 hrs
TERRAIN: Mostly flat/easy
HISTORY: The 14th Century St Michael's Church (51.527801, 0.47503799); World War II bombing decoy and night shelter for the Shell Haven oil refinery (51.528494, 0.49214244).

because it's gone.

• Stephen Neale is an award winning, outdoor writer, and author of *Wild Camping*, published by Bloomsbury.

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Speak up now before it's too late

SO on November 25 the Task and Finish Group concluded its deliberations on the Draft New Local Plan.

After almost two years' deliberation, the proposal put forward by the head of the group, Cllr Norman Smith and seconded by Cllr Jeff Stanley, is that the Task and Finish Group concluded:

"Recommendation to send the Plan back to full council to vote."

Just that. No explanation.

This gives the misleading impression that the Task and Finish Group found the plan sound.

The truth is very different.

So why are the T and F sending this back to full council, and what were its findings?

Answer – it is unable to come to any agreement on any aspect of the DNLP.

Green belt being a legitimate constraint and the enormity of opposition by the public being another constraint, the Task and Finish Group was unable to agree on approving development on any of the green belt sites, other than one – a Nursing Home on Canvey Island.

In addition, Canvey councillors could not approve development on flood risk areas or development near hazardous sites.

Lack of infrastructure, congested roads and lack of co-

operation from Essex County Council Highways were also contentious issues.

Thank heavens for Cllr Bill Dick and Cllr Paul Varker, who proposed and seconded new wording in the "recommendation" (to return the plan to full council), stating that the T and F group were unable to agree because of green belt and other constraints.

It was clear that Cllr Smith and Cllr Stanley were trying to suppress this "small detail" and were clearly perturbed at the insistence that the wording be changed.

It is also not lost on us that the vote is being forced before the Jotmans Farm inquiry decision, early next year.

Why the rush to get the Draft New Local Plan approved by full council? Could it be the council is afraid that a decision by inspectors to refuse development on Jotmans Farm because it is the green belt, might influence any decisions by councillors to approve a local plan which releases green belt for development?

We implore residents to lobby their ward councillors not to approve this disastrous plan.

Approval of this plan would result in a huge loss of green belt; an influx of new people; a huge increase in cars on our already congested roads;

added pressure on health services and schools; years of construction traffic thundering through and tearing up our neighbourhoods and a link road into High Road, Benfleet at Jotmans Lane, which will

bring overflow traffic from the A130 Canvey Way into Benfleet.

If local people don't speak up now, it will be too late.

The vote is on Wednesday, December 9 at the council offices, Kiln Road.

Please, come along to watch your councillors vote.

Sharon Ainsley
Jotmans Farm Action Group
Benfleet

Doggy do's and don'ts on streets

I THINK my years as a campaigner on animal welfare issues mark me out as an obvious animal lover.

I number dogs among these, and while never a dog owner myself, on many occasions I have borrowed friends' dogs to take them for walks.

I want to express my thanks to the legions of dog owners who lavish love on man's and woman's best friend. I particularly pick out those who understand that dog ownership comes with responsibilities.

These include looking after your pet's welfare, ensuring a healthy pooch is a well-exercised one.

The many owners who understand that if their dog poos then this must be picked up and disposed off properly should also be congratulated.

These are the vast majority of dog owners.

But, a black mark must go against those dog owners who

find it acceptable to allow their pets to do their business in the middle of pavements and care not to pick it up.

They let themselves down, they let all dog owners down and they let the community down.

I ask that all who walk their dogs, wherever they do this, to be responsible. Dog poo is unhealthy (especially for our smaller citizens), unsightly, and sometimes even dangerous.

Please pick up after your pet.

Cllr Julian Ware-Lane
Labour, Milton

Consider the consequences of leaving EU

I AM grateful for county councillor Alan Bayley's letter in response to mine for, in essence, it strengthens my assertion.

My appeal was to those of Labour, Liberal, Green and of similar persuasion to consider the consequence of Britain leaving the European Union.

To do so would result in the Tory government without any restrictions in their treatment of our people, particularly in relation to employment legislation.

We have witnessed how they react with a minimal parliamentary majority. Of course, as Councillor Bayley writes, Tories were among those making up the 3.8million UKIP votes and who should be surprised.

Les Harrington
Benfleet

Policies aplenty

TOO many people like Les Harrington are under the impression that UKIP has only one policy – immigration.

UKIP has many policies from defence, food, farming, and fishing to education and training, the economy as well as the NHS. I know of more than 100 UKIP policies, but as immigration is the most important issue in Britain, and indeed Europe today, this is the party's main one.

If people took the time to read all parties' policies, we

may well have had a prime minister to be proud of instead of the weak man we are stuck with until 2020.

Do educate yourself on UKIP policies, Mr Harrington.

Mary Hughes
Basildon

Dragging heels on yellow lines

RESIDENTS are long fed-up with the weekday blockage at the Eastwoodbury Lane end of Western Approaches.

Cllr Buckley and I wanted to assure residents that approval for more yellow lines has been obtained but despite numerous nudges and less polite reminders, nothing has happened from the council.

Are you reading this, portfolio holder?

Cllr Mark Flewitt
Cllr Steve Buckley

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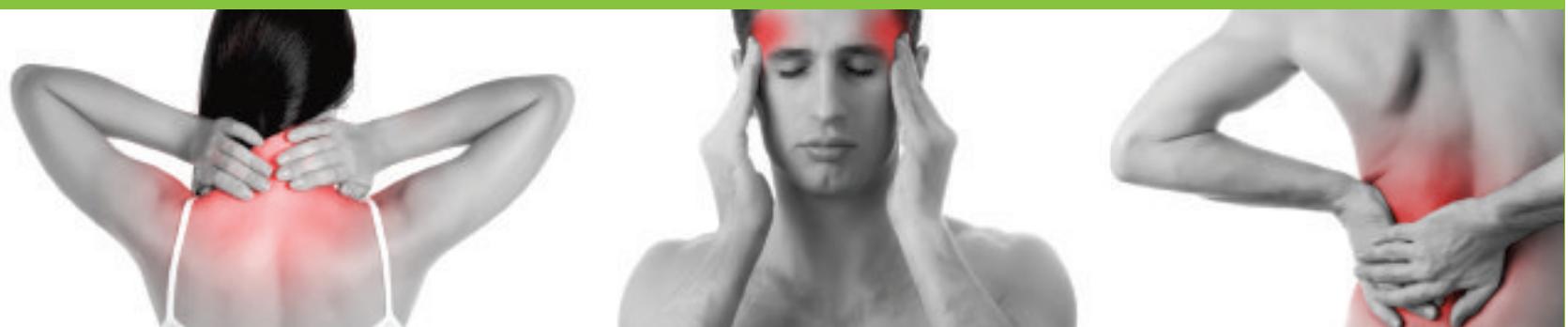
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not make the most of The Window Man's repair services? You really do have nothing to lose by gaining its professional opinion.

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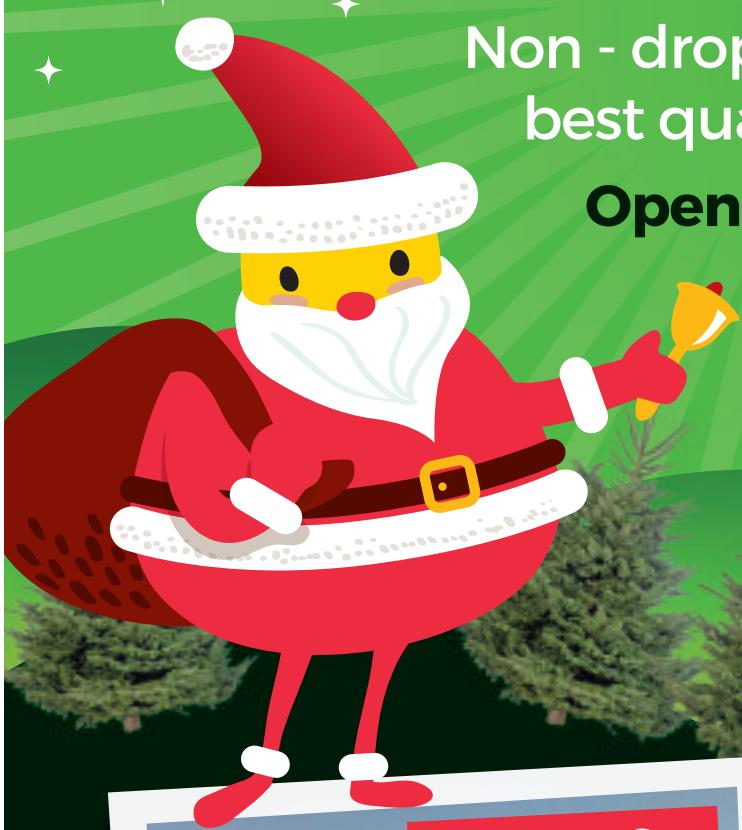
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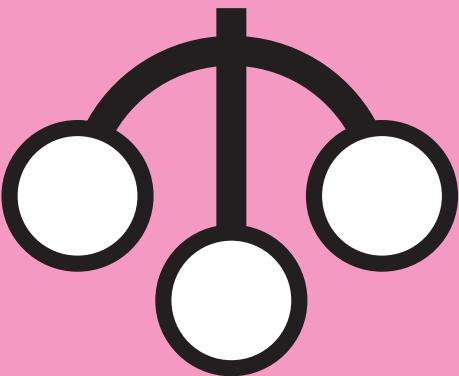
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Zuppa de Minestrone

An Italian classic soup served with warm bread

Fungi Con Formaggi de Caprino

Goats cheese stuffed breaded mushrooms served on leaf salad with beetroot chutney

Salmone Affumicato

Fines Scottish smoked salmon, Italian pickled vegetables, mascarpone cheese, dill, wholegrain brown bread

Fritto Misto

Fried floured fresh squid, whitetail and courgettes served with a sweet chilli dip

Asparagi Con Prosciutto Crudo

Fresh asparagus wrapped in Parma ham, white wine and garlic, parsley butter (vegetarian option available without ham)

MAIN COURSE

Tacchino Arrosto

Traditional roasted crown of turkey with sage and onion stuffing and trimmings

Pancia Di Maiale Farcito

Slow cooked pork belly roulade in red cabbage, cinnamon, red wine and balsamic sauce

Stinco Di Agnello

Slow cooked lamb shank in mountain herbs and red wine sauce

Coda Di Rosso

Monkfish cooked in cherry tomatoes, garlic, spring onion, white wine and prawns

Tagliatella Con Asparagi

Tagliatella pasta cooked in asparagus, onion, garlic, cream and white wine

DESSERT

Christmas Pudding

Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce

Tiramisu

Made with fresh ground coffee, Amaretto, Baileys, cream and mascarpone

Forest Gateaux

Christmas special chocolate and fruit of forest gateaux, drizzled with fresh cream

Duet of Sorbet

Gourmet green apple and lemon sorbet, drizzled with fresh strawberry coulis

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An Italian classic soup served with warm bread

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Fungi Con Formaggi de Caprino

Goats cheese stuffed breaded mushrooms served on leaf salad with beetroot chutney

Bianchetti Fritti

Golden fried whitebait served with paprika, lemon juice and mayonnaise dip

Cannelloni

Filet pasta tube with ricotta cheese, spinach topped with tomato sauce and béchamel

Duck Liver Paté

Duck, orange liver pâté, red onion marmalade and toasted ciabatta

MAIN COURSE

Tacchino Arrosto

Traditional roasted crown of turkey with sage and onion stuffing and trimmings

Agnello Arrosto

Garlic and thyme seasoned roasted leg of lamb with thyme and red wine jus

Salmone Con Limone e Salsa di Burro

Salmon fillets cooked in parsley, butter, white wine and lemon sauce

Fusilli Giardiniere

Garden vegetables, pesto, tomato sauce

Pollo Cacciatori

Breast of chicken cooked in peppers, mushrooms, onion, garlic, white wine and tomato sauce

Fegato Alla Veneziana

Pan-fried strips of calves liver, mashed potatoes, bacon and sage jus

DESSERT

Traditional Christmas Pudding with brandy sauce

Tiramisu made with fresh ground coffee, Amaretto, Baileys, cream and mascarpone

White Chocolate Cheesecake

Digestive biscuits, cream cheese, fresh cream, white chocolate and topped with strawberries

Italian Gelato

Mixed selection of strawberry, chocolate and vanilla ice cream

Cheese Board

Selection of three hard cheeses with apple, celery and grapes (plus £2)

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PrimeTime

What's on and what's coming

TRULY SCRUMPTIOUS FAMILY NIGHT OUT

By LIZ WADE

A NEW production of the much-loved musical Chitty Chitty Bang Bang will be flying into Southend next year with a star-studded cast.

Along with comedians Jason Manford and Phill Jupitus, ex-EastEnders stars Martin Kemp and Michelle Collins will take to the stage at the Cliffs Pavilion as part of a UK and Ireland tour.

The 1968 film, made from Ian Fleming's classic story – Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang: The Magical Car – has been adapted for the stage by Jeremy Sams, based on the MGM motion picture licensed script adapted by Ray Roderick.

The production, presented by Music & Lyrics and West Yorkshire Playhouse, sees Manford as whacky inventor, Caractacus Potts, and Jupitus in the roles of both Lord Scrumptious and Baron Bomburst.

Both stars are no strangers to the stage having appeared in Sweeney Todd and Hairspray respectively.



ly, as well as the

2015 tour of Mel Brooks's musical, The Producers.

Kemp will play the Child Catcher while Collins takes the role of Baroness Bomburst. The former TV soap stars, who appeared together in television drama,



STAR-STUDDED: The cast of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, clockwise from bottom left, Jason Manford, Michelle Collins, Phill Jupitus and Martin Kemp
Phill Jupitus photo by Andy Hollingworth



Can't Buy Me Love, in 20014 – a true story about a man who conned his wife and friends into believing he had won the Lottery – will be reunited during the tour.

They will be joined by Amy Griffiths (Everyman, Stephen



Ward, The Pajama Game) who will play Truly Scrumptious and Andy Hockley (The Phantom Of The Opera) as Grandpa Potts.

Can the loveable but whacky inventor, Potts, with

his two children and the gorgeous Truly outfit Baron Bomburst who has decreed that all children be banished from his kingdom?

What happens when the children are caught and

● Turn to page 32

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PrimeTime

film review



Daniel Radcliffe and James McAvoy

PA Photo/Twentieth Century Fox/Alex Bailey

What a monster!

VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN (12A, 110 mins)

In her 1818 novel *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley paints a vivid portrait of a wretched monster, whose "unearthly ugliness" rendered it almost too horrible for human eyes".

Scottish director Paul McGuigan's clunky reworking of the Gothic masterpiece, which recounts man's ill-fated meddling with Mother Nature from the perspective of Frankenstein's assistant Igor, is a similarly lifeless and unappealing mess.

The disfigured, snivelling servant doesn't feature in Shelley's haunting text but was popularised by Hollywood in the 1930s and 1940s.

As played here by Daniel Radcliffe, Igor is a kind-hearted circus clown, who pledges his loyalty to Dr Frankenstein in return for liberation from a life of bullying and brutality.

He isn't a hunchback at all, but a victim of a nasty bulging abscess beside the 10th vertebrae, which is drained of puss in stomach-churning close-up as a centrepiece of the film's pedestrian first half.

The fraternal bond

between scientific master and much-abused whelp is one of the more interesting aspects of Max Landis' misguided and misfiring script.

Alas, it's not sufficiently developed ahead of a cacophonous second act replete with flashes of lightning and the birth of a homunculus, patched together from stolen organs and body parts.

Victor Frankenstein (James McAvoy) is a student at the Royal College Of Medicine with lodgings in the West End.

During a visit to a circus run by sadistic ringmaster Barnaby (Daniel Mays), Victor encounters a lowly clown (Radcliffe) with a burning passion for anatomy.

A bond is forged and Victor rescues the clown from his cage and asks the performer to become his assistant under the guise of his morphine-addicted flatmate, Igor Straussman.

Together, they blaze a trail in medical science by harnessing the power of electricity to reanimate dead flesh.

"I am of the strong belief that death can be made a temporary condition," gushes Victor.

Success emboldens

Frankenstein and the student dares to create a fully formed being with support from a wealthy patron called Finnegan (Freddie Fox).

Meanwhile, Igor fans the flames of a fledgling romance with a circus acrobat Lorelei (Jessica Brown Findlay) and God-fearing Inspector Roderick Turpin (Andrew Scott) vows to bring down Victor for mocking his religion.

"You toy with wrathful forces and there's no mercy in nature," growls the police officer.

Victor Frankenstein lumbers and lurches rather like the monstrosity that the title character jolts to life with a bolt of from the heavens.

Radcliffe and McAvoy are an awkward double-act; the former stilted and earnest, the latter wide-eyed and manic.

Scott verges on unintentional hilarity as a man of faith, undone by the grief of losing his wife.

"Something reeks here – reeks of an evil, sinful mischief," he cackles as the police investigation gathers pace.

Lamentably, he's right. Victor Frankenstein stinks.

Released: December 3
RATING: 4/10

Stage

Chitty takes to the stage

From front page 31

imprisoned with the other youngsters by the evil Child Catcher? Will it all end happily-ever-after? Well, of course it will.

Having broken all box office records in the West End, this fun-filled production from the team that brought you *Fiddler on the Roof* and *The King and I* promises laughs and magic galore and, of course, Chitty herself.

It will also include the Sherman Brothers' memorable score, including *Truly Scrumptious*, *Toot Sweets*, *Hushabye Mountain* and the Oscar-nominated title song *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, as well as a

live orchestra.

The production, which is being directed by West Yorkshire Playhouse artistic director James Brining with new choreography by Stephen Mear, also promises sensational sets and stunning special effects.

This production is presented by permission of Josef Weinberger Limited on behalf of Music Theatre International of New York.

■ For further information and tickets to see *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* which will be at the Cliffs Pavilion, Southend, from April 13 to 24, call the box office on 01702 351135 or visit www.southendtheatres.org.uk.

Win panto tickets in our kids' colouring competition

Name

Age

Address:

Daytime Tel No:



GEET your pens, pencils or crayons at the ready and enter our colouring competition to win one of two family tickets to see the panto Cinderella, at the Cliffs Pavilion, Southend.

Our colouring competition is open to infant and junior school children with a prize for each age group – four to seven and eight to 11 – for the best picture.

The winners and their families will get to see Cinderella at the Cliffs Pavilion, at 5pm on Sunday, December 13.

Television, musical theatre and panto legend Brian Conley will be appearing in the role of Buttons.

He returns to the theatre following his acclaimed performance last year in the UK tour of Barnum. In a career spanning three decades Conley has appeared in award-winning West End musicals and television sitcoms, presented his own chat shows, recorded three albums and completed numerous sell-out tours of the UK.

He will be joined by one of the nation's

best-loved actresses, Lesley Joseph, in the role of The Fairy Godmother. Joseph, who appeared on our televisions last year in the hugely successful return of Birds of a Feather, has also appeared in numerous plays and musicals, both in the West End and on tour, including Calendar Girls, Thoroughly Modern Millie and Annie.

Cinderella runs at the Cliffs Pavilion from Saturday, December 12, to Sunday, January 10. For tickets call 01702 351135 or visit thecliffs.pavilion.co.uk.

- To enter just send your finished picture along with your child's name and age, and your daytime telephone number, to: Cinderella Colouring Competition, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex SS14 1AH, by Wednesday, December 9.

The winners of each age group (four to seven, and eight to 11) will win a family ticket to see Cinderella at the Cliffs Pavilion, Southend, at 5pm on Sunday, December 13, each of which admit either two adults and two children, or one adult and three children.

PrimeTime

Film and TV Quiz

- Whose real name was Frances Gumm?
- Modern Family star Ed O'Neil starred in another comedy show in the late 1980s. What was it called?
- Who coined the phrase "naughty but nice" for a fresh cream cakes TV advertisement in the 1970s?
- Who directed the film Fight Club?
- Excluding 'The', which word appears most in Bond film titles?
- Jon Snow is a character in which television series?
- In The Big Bang Theory what is Sheldon Cooper's middle name?
- Who rejected the offer of a role in Grease?
- Which actor failed an audition for the movie Fame because he wasn't good looking enough?
- Which classic TV show was created by Gene Roddenberry?

Music Quiz

- Who was the first British female solo artist to have a number 1 album?
- Who is David Evans better know as?
- Which singer started out as a gas fitter in Sheffield?
- Who was the first DJ to be heard on Radio 1?
- The lyric: "We're just two lost souls swimming in a fishbowl," is from which song?
- Who released the album Physical Graffiti in 1975?
- Grand Wizzard Theodore is credited with the invention of which vinyl technique?
- Who was the youngest of The Beatles?
- Who wrote Quadrophenia?
- Who won the X Factor in 2014?

8 George Harrison 9 Pete Townshend 10 Ben Hanton
8 Michael Jackson 5 Wish You Were Here 6 Led Zeppelin 7 Scatterbrain
8 Elton John 9 Tom Cruise 10 Star Trek
3 Simon Rattle 4 David Foster 5 Never 6 Game of Thrones 7 Lee
7 Freddie Mercury 6 Queen 2 The Edge 3 George Clooney 4 Tony

To have your event considered for publication, send the details AT LEAST 10 DAYS before the issue date to: What's On, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, SS14 1AH. You can e-mail us at: letters@yellowad.co.uk PLEASE NOTE: We cannot guarantee that all entries will be included. However, you can add the details of your event to our website at www.yellowad.co.uk

Saturday, December 5

- South East Essex Ramblers – Five-mile walk through park and woods, 10am, Jubilee car park off Cherry Orchard Way, SS2 6TR, details: Richard, 01702 529141.
- Christmas Craft Fayre – St James The Great, Elmsleigh Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, 10.30am-2pm. Details Karen 07779 648836.
- Basildon Saturday Club – For people with special needs, 9am to noon, games, music, arts, crafts. Ages 14 upwards, Fryup Hall, The Fryup, Basildon, 01268 415409.
- Club 50+ – Southend – 9.30am-3.30pm daily, activities, non-members welcome, £2 day pass, details 01702 346863.
- Counselling service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Yugioh Club – play and trade yugioh, 120 Southend Road, St Catherine's Church Hall, Wickford, SS11 8EB, mini tournaments, 1.30-4.20pm, 07985 671289.
- Dads and Kids Club – The Megacentre, Rayleigh, 10.30am-1.30pm, free entry for ages five to 17 with their fathers and father figures. 01268 779100.
- Saturday Morning Club – St Michael's Church Hall, Leigh Road, 10am-noon, admission free, Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled, 01702 437863.
- Brush Strokes Art Group – Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh, 9.15am-12.15pm, new members welcome. 01277 627043.
- Different Strokes Exercise Class – St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend, for those who have had a stroke. 2.30pm, 01702 612509.
- Jazz workshop – Southend Jazz Co-op, Hadleigh old Fire Station, Hadleigh, 10am-1pm, £5 per session (concessions).

Sunday, December 6

- South East Essex Ramblers –

seven-mile walk. The hills of Benfleet, Hadleigh and Thundersley 10am, Meet School Lane car park, Benfleet, SS7 1NF. Contact: Simon 0784 22 11 218.

- Ron Spack's Dinner Jazz – Westcliff Hotel, Westcliff, 12.30pm. 01702 345247.
- Sunday School – The Ark, Hadleigh Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, SS7 2PQ, 11am to noon, ages three to 10. Call 07585 601815 or 07967 913344.
- Quaker Meeting for silent worship and meditation – Quaker Meeting House, Dundonald Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, 10.30-11.30am, followed by conversation.
- King's Church Southend – Blerheim School off Blenheim Chase, Leigh, every Sunday 10.30am-noon, 01702 523639.
- Greek Community of Southend & District, Church of St Barbara, St Phanourious and St Paul's, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff, 10am-noon. 01702 466435.
- Sunday Club – TGH Evangelical Church, Kiln Road, Thundersley, (children aged three to 12), Bible stories, craft, singing, 10.45-11.45am, no charge, details 01702 554904.
- Mojo Friendship Club – Travellers' Joy, Downhall Road, Rayleigh, 11am, open to all, details Mo 07757 658799.

Monday, December 7

- Games Club – St Clement's Church, The Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Scrabble, chess, rummikub, backgammon and lots more. 2pm-4pm. Tel 07884 148148.
- Ron Spack's Jazzyet – Oakwood, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, John Sharpe, sax, Dave Kay, guitar, 8.30pm, 01702 512819.
- U3A Riverside – 2pm, Pooles Lane Community Centre, Hullbridge, SS5 6PA. Speakers, trips and interest groups.
- Coffee Morning – Christ Church, Wickford, 9am to noon. All welcome.
- Club 50+ – 1B Queen's Road, Southend, 9.30am-3.30pm, daily, £2 day pass, details 01702 346863.
- Sunshine Coffee Morning – for parents in Craylands and Felmores area. Briscoe Community Centre, 9-11am, free workshop, coffee and creche. Call Dawn 07880 035988, or turn up.
- Dance class – usually six-week course, ballroom, Latin American, Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702 546219/542349.
- Leigh Scrabble Club – 7-10pm. All standards. Wesley Hall, Leigh Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Just turn up or call Peter on 01268 727915.
- George Hurd Centre, Basildon, for the over-50s. Craft: 10am to noon, tai chi: whilst 9.45am-12.30pm, 10am to noon, art:

12.30-2.30pm, choir: 2.30-4pm, indoor bowls: 2-4pm. £2, 01268 465854.

- Senior Citizens Club – Richmond Hall, Benfleet, 1.30-3.30pm.
- Counselling Service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Over-50s Keep-fit Classes – Fyrefoms Community Centre, details Pat 01268 770294.
- Over-50s session – Megacentre Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, Badminton and table tennis 2-4pm. £3.50 inc refreshments and equipment. 01268 773100.
- Activity Session for adults with special needs – 10am to noon. The Megacentre, Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £1 per session, no charge for carers.
- Duplicate Bridge – Balmoral Bridge Club, Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh (opp Thames Drive), 1.15pm-4.30pm, call Vernon 01702 343611 or Tony 01702 520993.
- Duplicate Bridge – Thorpe Bay Bridge Club, 62 Southchurch Boulevard, Southend, non-members of all standards welcome, 2-4.45pm (no partner needed), 7.30-10.30pm, call Danny 07843 771774.
- Weekly Craft Workshop – St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, Balmoral, 6-8pm, details Michelle 07730 582784.
- Basildon Players Amateur Dramatic Group – 8-10pm, James Hornby High School, Leinster Road, Laindon, details Jeff Lev 07913 426371, email join@basildonplayers.co.uk.
- Zumba – Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.15-10am. 01268 465432.
- Beginners Computer Course – Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 11am-1pm. 01268 465432.
- Short Mat Bowls Club in Hadleigh – welcomes new members, Canvey Short Mat Bowls Club, call Kevin 01268 792433.
- Short Mat Bowls – in Thundersley, beginners welcome, details 01268 779174.
- Indoor Short Mat Bowls – Prittlewell Bowls Club, Priory Park, Southend, details 01268 777666.
- Indoor Bowls – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, 10am to noon, details 01268 465854.
- Senior Citizens Club – Ghyllgrove Centre, Butneys, 1.30-3.30pm, 01268 293995.
- Pensioners stall – York Road Outdoor Market, Southend, 8am-2pm.

what's on

- Evening of clairvoyance – Room 2, Paddocks, Long Road, Canvey, 7.30pm, £3, all profits to local charities, healing available after service 9pm, enquiries 01268 691922.
- Healing in Basildon – 10.30am-4pm, qualified NFSH healers, no charge, all donations to local hospice, call 07956 353564 for an appointment.
- Development Healing Circle – Face Salon, Burdett Avenue, Westcliff, an understanding of spiritual healing and prayer, 8-9.30pm, details 07879 004744.
- Fitness Walking – from Leigh Tennis Club, Highlands Boulevard, Leigh, 7.15-8.15pm, details 01702 715509.
- Scrabble Club – Wesley Church Hall, Elm Road, Leigh Broadway, (opp police station), beginners welcome, no partner needed, 7-10pm, £3, call 01268 727915.

Tuesday, December 8

- Magic: The Gathering Club – play and trade, beginners welcome, Laindon Community Centre, SS15 6NX, 6-10pm email: BasildonMTG@hotmail.com.
- Parent and Toddler Messy Play Group – Buttercup Club, St Michael's and All Angels Church, Sir Walter Raleigh Drive, Rayleigh, 9.30am and 11am, 01702 712150.
- Alzheimer's Society Men's Motivational Group – call 01702 345156 or 343121.
- Anchor Folk Club – Brooke Williams, 7-9 Northview Drive, Westcliff, 8pm, 01702 715111.
- Counselling service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Yoga Class – Thorpedene Community Centre, Delaware Road, Shoeburyness, 7-8.30pm, £6, bring a blanket and yoga mat, ages 16-plus. 07961 314983.
- Social Dance Class – with instruction, in ballroom, Latin American and sequence, 8.30-10.30pm, Ashingdon & East Hawkwell Memorial Hall, 01702 546219/542349.
- Table Tennis – 7.30-10.30pm, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £3.60 per session.
- Weekly Craft Group – Oasis Coffee House, 189 Leigh Road, Leigh, 2.30-4pm. No charge. Emma 01702 471873.
- Willows Park Short Mat Bowls Club requires new or experienced players – James Hornby School, Laindon. First session free, call or text 07952 043456.
- Social Dance – 1.45pm, St Cedd's Church, Bridgewater Drive, Westcliff, Ballroom, sequence, Latin, 01702 618771.
- Evening of clairvoyance – St Cecilia's Christian Spiritualist Church, 9 Lord Roberts Ave, Leigh, 7.15pm, £2, Anne 01702 556470.

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PrimeTime

- Folk Music – The Hoy at Anchor Folk Club, Royal British Legion, 7/9 Northview Drive, Westcliff, Steve Tilston, 8pm, 01702 715111.
- Tea Dance – Ashington Memorial Hall, Ashington Road, Rochford, ballroom, Latin and sequence, 2-4pm, 01702 584575.
- Scrabble Club – Hockey Social Centre (rear of library) 6.30-10pm, first two visits free, 01702 205910.
- Ladies Fellowship – Salvation Army in Hadleigh, 7.30pm, 50p per week or annual subscription, just come along or call 017002 651470.
- The Peter's Club, Exercise Class for people with breathing difficulties run by people with breathing difficulties, Ambleside Sports and Social Club, Ambleside Drive, Southend, 12.45-2.30pm, 01702 610050/466827.
- Pathfinders Blind and Partially Sighted Group – Frysens Baptist Church, Whitmore Way, 9.30am-2pm.
- Evening of clairvoyance – St Cecilia's Church, 9 Lord Roberts Avenue, Leigh, every Tuesday, 7.15pm, £2, enquiries Anne 01702 556470.
- The George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, yoga: 10-11am, sit down yoga: 11.10-12.10, keep fit: noon to 1pm, line dancing: 1.20-2.20pm, chess: 1.30-3.30pm, craft: 1.30-3.30pm. 01268 465854.
- Singles Social Group – The Mews, Nelson Mews, off Clarence Road car park, Southend, age 50-plus, 8pm. 07970 432994.
- Singles Friendship Club for 50-plus – South Benfleet Social Club, 8.15pm, details Maureen 01268 692998.
- New and nearly new stall – outside St Martin's Church, Town Centre, Basildon, (if wet in church foyer), 10am-noon.
- Table Top Sale – Outpatients Foyer, Southend Hospital, 9.30am-3pm, Breathe Easy Southend, helping support people with lung problems, 01702 258661.
- Carpet Bowls – Eastwood Community Centre, top of Morrisons car park, 3.30-5.30pm, no experience necessary, £2 per session, joining fee £5, first session free.
- Bingo and Hoy – Wick Community Centre, Wickford, 1.30-4pm, details John Clarke 01268 570575.
- Top Cats Social Club, (Southend Mencap) – Castle View School, Meppel Avenue, Canvey, 7.9-4.5pm, for adults with learning disabilities age 25 plus, £2 per session, details 01702 341250.
- Tuesday Luncheon Club – Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled, Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff, for people living alone or with their carers,

details 01702 478691/ 525141/340617.
 ■ Little Lunchers Activity Club – St Michael's Church, Rayleigh, 11.45am-1.15pm.
 ■ Vange Tots – Vange Community Centre, Vange Hill Drive, Vange, 9.30-11.30am, admission £1, snack and drinks provided for all. 01268 498642.
 ■ Shoebury Flagship – Rainbow Children's Centre, Friars School, Constable Way, Shoebury, 1.30-3.30pm, health visiting team with advice and support for parents with babies and children aged up to five. 01702 577656.

Wednesday, December 9

- The Rotary Club of Hadleigh Castle will be visiting the following Hadleigh streets from 6-8pm with Father Christmas in his sleigh, helped by his merry snowmen to help raise money for local children's charities: Rectory Road, Poors Lane, Shepherds Walk, Greenacres, Scrub Lane, Woodfield Road, Church Road.
- South East Essex Ramblers – 10.5-mile walk, Canewdon and Sea Wall Circuit, 9.45am, Canewdon Village Hall car park off Lamourne Hall Road, SS4 3PH, Contact: Alan C, 01702 532387
 Five miles, walk the promenade and pier. 10am. Meet free council car park Lifstan Way, opp junction with Northumberland Crescent, Southend SS1 2XD. Charges apply to walk the pier – £2. Contact: Graham White, 07860 738777.
- Sculpture, Stone Carving & Lettering – Traditional tools and professional tuition. 8-10pm, Studio Workshop, West Road, Shoeburyness. Jim Davis 01702 292867
- Southend Beating Bowel Cancer Support Group – Nazareth House, London Road, Southend, 1.30-4.30pm, details Janet Wagstaff 01702 312959.
- Pregnancy Yoga Class – Westwood Primary School, Hadleigh, 8-9pm, £6 per session. Details Linda 01702 552260.
- Line dancing lessons – 12.30-2.30pm, St Margaret's Church Hall, Lime Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3PA. 07948 108195.
- Counselling Service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- The Concord Ladies Club of Rayleigh – 1.30-3pm, Caley Hall, Crown Hill, Rayleigh, 01268 743240.
- Leigh Singles Social Club – 45-65s, Bellini's, London Road, Leigh. www.leighsingles.co.uk for details.
- Activity Session for children with special needs, aged five to 18, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, for children with special needs, aged five to 18, free entry, siblings welcome, details 01268 779100.
- Palace Writers Group – 7.30pm, alternating venues with the Palace and Cliffs Pavilion, open mic events and public readings, details Emily 01702 390472.
- Roche Art Group – St Teresa's Church Hall, 109 Ashington Road, Rochford, 7.30-9.30pm, details Gill 01702 421737.
- Advanced Computer Course – Pitsea Day Centre over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.30-11.30am. 01268

what's on

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- Parent and Toddler Messy Play Group – Buttercup Club, Leigh Community Centre, Elm Road, Leigh, 9.30am and 11am, 01702 712150.

Thursday, December 10

- The Rotary Club of Hadleigh Castle will be visiting the following Hadleigh streets from 6-8pm with Father Christmas in his sleigh, helped by his merry snowmen to help raise money for local children's charities: The Avenue, Bilton Road, Scrub Lane, Seymour Road, Mornington Crescent, Chandos Parade, Burlington Gardens, Leigh Heights, Seymour Road, The Crescent and Broughton Road.
- Knit & Natter – St Clement's Church, The Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea, 10.30-12.30pm.
- Wakering Spiritual Centre – Memorial Hall, High Street, SS3 0EF, 8pm. 01702 476087 or 07967 578871.
- Ferndale WI – Ferndale Community Hall, North Avenue, SS2 4ET, 2pm.
- Alzheimer's Society activity group – To book, call 01702 345156 or 343121.
- Counselling service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Carpet Bowls – Eastwood Community Centre, top of Morrisons car park, 3.30-5.30pm, no experience necessary, £2 per session, joining fee £5, first session free.
- Thundersley Gardening Association – 7.45pm, Swans Green Hall, Hart Road, Thundersley, please bring exhibits, £3.
- George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s. Line dancing: 1-2pm, computer, £3: 1-3.30pm, indoor bowls: 2.15-4.15pm, bridge, 9.30am-12.30pm, ceramics: 1.30-3pm. £2, 01268 465854.
- Health Walk – Hockley Woods, 10.45am, car parking in Hockley Woods car park, details 01702 318121.
- Jive classes – Ambleside Social Club, Ambleside Drive, Southend, 8pm, £5 (first night free), all ages welcome, no need to bring a partner. 07771 831507.
- Buddies Over 50 Singles Club – Anchor Pub, Benfleet, 8.30pm, details Dee, 01268 565045.
- Westcliff National Spiritualist Church – Hildaville Drive, Westcliff, mediums demonstrate clairvoyance, 7.30pm.
- Pottery – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, 1.30-3.30pm. 01268 465854.
- Coffee, cake and chat – WI Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh, 2pm, details Di 07952 148636 or Linda 07504 114762.

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PrimeTime

Spoil everyone at Plum Valley

Advertisement feature

SPOIL your friends and family this Christmas at Billericay's Plum Valley and eat as much as you like from a range of delicious dishes.

The Peking and Cantonese restaurant, at 43 High Street, is the perfect setting for festive celebrations with work colleagues so book now to avoid disappointment.

The restaurant has been offering residents a new dining experience since opening its doors

almost three years ago, while new management gave Plum Valley a further boost earlier this year by offering diners a unique dining experience.

Plum Valley allows you to enjoy as much as you like, without having to help yourself from a buffet counter, as its team of experienced staff silver serve whatever dishes you would like, right to your table.

This concept allows you the chance to benefit from a great choice of dishes at a fantastic set price, while being assured that all your dishes are

freshly prepared to order.

The restaurant, which is part of the Plum Group, has another successful restaurant in Witham, a popular mixed concept restaurant offering both Indian and Chinese cuisine.

Plum Valley's owner, Mr Uddin, who has extensive experience in the business, not only changed the restaurant's concept and its name, but also invested in a total refurbishment of the premises including a new-look seating area and a new-look restaurant front.

The eat as much as you like menu costs just £13.95 for adults and £9.95 for children under 12, from Monday to Thursday evening; £15.95 for adults and £9.95 for children under 12 on Friday and Saturday evenings; and £13.95 for adults and £9.95 for children under 12 all day Sunday.

As well as being a great place to enjoy a meal with family or friends, the restaurant is the place to celebrate special occasions, from birthdays to anniversaries.

The restaurant, which offers a full takeaway service with free home delivery in the local area or 10 per cent discount on collections of more than £15, is open from noon to 2pm, and from 6pm to 11pm, from Monday to Thursday, from 6pm to 11.30pm on Friday and Saturday, and all day from 1pm to 10.30pm on Sunday.

For further information or to make a reservation call Plum Valley on 01277 637400 or 01277 655359.



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Friday & Saturday 12noon - 2.30pm, 5pm Till Late

PrimeTime

A mouth-watering feast at Taste of Raj

Advertisement feature

If you want to enjoy mouth-watering food this Christmas then make sure you book a table at the popular Taste of Raj.

The long-established restaurant, situated in the heart of Rochford, is taking bookings for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

On Christmas Day, when the restaurant will be open from noon to 6pm, you can enjoy a four-course meal including traditional English and Indian homestyle turkey, for just £29.95 for adults and £15 for children.

Book your office party at Taste of Raj this festive season and it will supply you with hats, crackers and party poppers.

Throughout the year, Taste of Raj's menu is packed with outstanding Indian cuisine including a vast range of appetisers such as the mixed platter followed by a variety of traditional favourites.

It also has some mouth-watering chef specialities such as gosht aada kata, gosht kalia and the popular Rajeswari – all of which have their own unique tastes thanks to a variety of special spices and ingredients.

If you want to try something different then there is also a range of Persian dishes to choose from, including dansak and pathia, and a variety of shatkora dishes that are cooked Bangladeshi style.

Also to finish off your meal there is a selection of deserts including Cadburys Flake and passion bowl.

As well as being the ideal place for Christmas celebrations, Taste of Raj is the perfect setting for a range of special events throughout the year including birthdays and family occasions.

It also offers outstanding value-for-money thanks to a range of offers including a lunchtime menu, served from Monday to Saturday, which is ideal for business lunches and costs just £8.95

eating out

per person (£2 extra for king prawn and hash jalfrezi dishes).

The Sunday buffet, served from noon to 5.30pm, is the perfect excuse to enjoy fantastic cuisine with all the family as diners can eat as much as they like for just £7.95 per person, with children under the age of 10 enjoying the buffet for only £3.95.

Customers wanting to enjoy a great meal in the comfort of their own home are also spoilt for choice, as all of the restaurant's dishes can be prepared for takeaway orders.

The takeaway menu, which has a range of meal deals including a set meal for one for just £10.95 and a set meal for two for £21.95, offers free home delivery on orders of more than £10, and even a complementary bottle of wine on orders of more than £39.95.

All of this is complemented by a great service and warm welcome which go towards making your meal one to remember.

The fully licensed and air conditioned restaurant can also provide an outside catering service for whatever event or special occasion you are planning, and can provide a menu to suit.

The restaurant, at 8 East Street, is open seven days a week, including bank holidays, from noon to 2.30pm, and from 5.30pm to 11.30pm, from Monday to Thursday; from noon to 2.30pm, and from 5.30pm to midnight, on Friday and Saturday; and from noon to 11.30pm on Sunday.

For further information, or to make a reservation, call Taste of Raj, at 8 East Street, Rochford, on 01702 542916 or 01702 545293, or visit www.taste-of-raj.com.

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Property

Home of the week

Haarlem Road, Canvey Island

THIS spacious, detached chalet-style bungalow with character features throughout offers two ground floor bedrooms and one first floor bedroom. It also has a modern fitted kitchen/diner.

There is a recently refitted ground floor bathroom, ground floor cloakroom, a detached utility room and garage.

The rear garden has steps leading to a lawn with established flower and shrub borders.

There is a paved seating area to the rear with a raised brick-built ornamental pond, plus a built-in barbecue area.

The workshop and tree house we understand are to remain.

There is an external power point.

£305,000



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Ask the Agent

Alan Kirkman

Q. We've all experienced property deals going wrong - or heard about them from others. What's your take on this, as an agent?



Alan Kirkman is a Director of both Tudor Estates in Southend and Essex TEAM part of a network of independently owned estate agents who share their instructions for the benefit of giving their client properties maximum market exposure. Alan has been an estate agent for over 32 years.

A. Well, I personally think that as an industry we need to shape up and start calling a spade a spade. The fact is that the majority of deals "go wrong" through no fault of the agent, but because one or other of the two principals involved - ie, the seller and the buyer - simply change their minds for one reason or another!

Another big issue is the lack of transparency on the part of some vendors. For too long, some clients have been unforthcoming on a whole variety of matters - even including the actual ownership of the property they want to sell! This might sound crazy, but quite often an agent will belatedly discover that in fact there is a joint owner, or the property concerned actually belongs to a relative! I'm not suggesting this is deliberate deception - it's far more likely to be simple lack of knowledge or understanding. Nevertheless, it's worth remembering that agents can only sell a property on behalf of

the registered owners - unless there is a Power of Attorney.

Full disclosure at the outset of any other issues relating to the property - for example, public rights of way or restrictive lease clauses - is equally vital. Buyers' solicitors and surveyors will soon discover any problems in any case, but it's far better if the agent knows everything, warts and all, right from the start. Then we can forewarn buyers - indeed, it is our legal duty to do so.

Needless to say, another huge stumbling block is price. Naturally, everyone wants the best price possible, but all too often this simply plays into the hands of agents who are prepared to wildly over-value, just to win the instruction. In the process, the sensible price put forward by a more experienced agent will be rejected, to the detriment of the sale. Working with a knowledgeable, professional and above all honest agent can and will make all the difference. They are on your side. If and when they call a spade a spade, they are helping you. So, always give your agent the full story - however unpalatable. If the agent is worth their salt and their fee, they will give you great advice on how to handle the issues that come up, offering specialist services where necessary, so you get the desired outcome - a move!

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Westcliff On Sea**£325,000**

Spacious three double bedroom detached family house situated on a good size plot. The property provides large ground floor living accommodation and benefits from being newly carpeted and decorated throughout. Full double glazing and gas central heating and has scope to extend due to the size of its frontage. West backing garden. Offers early vacant possession.

Westcliff On Sea**£325,000**

Three bedroom semi detached chalet situated within a sought after location of Westcliff close to Southend hospital and various schools. The property offers enormous potential in relation to redevelopment or extensions, subject to planning permission and has a 40' frontage which increases to the rear of the property to 52' along with substantial rear gardens.

Westcliff On Sea £310,000

Sorrell are delighted to offer for sale this three bedroom detached family house offering spacious ground floor living accommodation. The property also benefits from detached garage and parking for two vehicles along with established front and rear gardens. Fairview Drive is situated close to Earls Hall infant and junior school and Southend general hospital. Full double glazing and gas central heating.

Southend On Sea £62 pcm

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Plots 254 & 255 Bradwell Wick Estate, Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex CM8 7HY
Two parcels of green belt land situated south of the Maldon Road, close to Bradwell-on-Sea

***Guide £150,000**

Exeter Close, Shoeburyness, Essex
FREEHOLD two bedroom end of terrace house benefiting from large rooms, double glazing and central heating

***Guide £1,000**

Plot 13 Bradwell Wick Estate, Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex CM8 7HY
A parcel of green belt land situated south of the Maldon Road, close to Bradwell-on-Sea originally described and sold as a Leisure Plot

***Guide £250,000**

The Street, Latchingdon, Essex
Of interest to occupiers and investors. A mixed commercial and residential Vacant Freehold property with private car parking located in this popular Essex village.

***Guide £225,000**

Trinity Close, Basildon, Essex
A FREEHOLD four bedroom semi detached family house benefiting from Double Glazing and Central

***Guide £250,000 plus**

London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex
FREEHOLD three storey building consisting of a ground floor lock up shop and two self contained flats

***Guide £4,000**

Blackwater Estuary Estate, Essex
FREEHOLD Parcel of land comprising of four adjacent plots, the dimensions are approximately 120' x 80' total

***Guide £100,000 plus**

Sandon Close, Romford, Essex
A VACANT Leasehold one bedroom purpose built ground floor flat with own parking space & communal garden

***Guide £1,000**

Plot 74 Bradwell Wick Estate, Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex CM8 7HY
A parcel of green belt land situated south of the Maldon Road, close to Bradwell-on-Sea originally described and sold as a Leisure Plot

***Guide £160,000**

Campania Close, Shoeburyness, Essex
A FREEHOLD two storey three bedroom end of terrace house with Double Glazing & Central Heating

***Guide £140,000**

Loton House, Romford, Essex
A top floor three bedroom flat on a long lease benefiting from Gas central heating and double glazing

***Guide £300,000**

Redfern Girls, Romford, Essex
A FREEHOLD VACANT 3 Bedroom semi-detached house in need of renovation and redecoration. Detached Garage to Rear.

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*Guides are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve (a figure below which the Auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide.



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VERY SPACIOUS TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM RETIREMENT APARTMENT situated in this most impressive and elegant complex, Montague Court. Local shops, the station and the beach are all within walking distance. 23' x 11'4 superb size lounge diner with private balcony, luxury fitted kitchen, luxury shower room, elegant communal lounge, lovely gardens, residents car park - KEYS HELD FOR VIEWING. Ref ett5355



**Leigh-on-sea
£469,995**

We have pleasure in offering for sale this large detached three double bedroom family home currently undergoing complete refurbishment. The property occupies an impressive 40' x 160' south facing plot with a 40' x 90' rear garden. En suite shower room to master bedroom, stunning 28'1 x 21'1 open plan lounge, dining room and kitchen, superb lounge with vaulted ceiling, 14' x 13' dining area, new fitted kitchen, luxury ground floor bathroom, KEYS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING THIS FABULOUS FAMILY HOME. Ref ETL5389

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Westcliff-on-sea £335,000

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Two bedroom refurbished flat, Leigh-on-sea £269,995

Super location in the heart of Leigh-on-sea, walking distance of Leigh Station and just a stones throw of the Broadway, this luxury refurbished two bedroom flat is available with no onward chain and keys are available for viewing. The accommodation offers two large bedrooms, a superb open plan lounge and luxury fully fitted kitchen with bi-fold doors leading out to a 19'6 wide south facing balcony, luxury bathroom etc.



Westcliff on sea £279,995

An excellent opportunity to purchase this spacious two double bedroom semi-detached bungalow situated in a peaceful 'no through road' location yet within easy walking distance of local shops, Southend hospital and bus route to surrounding areas. Pretty garden with decking patio, spacious lounge, lovely bathroom, 21' x 15' open plan kitchen and dining room, off street parking, NEW ROOF. Ref ett5380



Detached Bungalow, Leigh-on-sea £369,995

KEYS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING - NO ONWARD CHAIN- Eagerly sought after location on the Highlands Estate close to local shops and walking distance of Leigh Station, Westleigh Schools Catchment Area, attractive gardens, garage and extra parking, new luxury kitchen, gas c/h & Double glazing, large lounge, two double bedrooms. Early viewing is strongly advised as an early sale is expected. Ref ett5332

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Marine Estate, Leigh £365,000

KEYS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING this Bungalow with lovely 70' west facing rear garden, parking for two cars, Spacious lounge, conservatory, 18' extensively fitted kitchen, TWO/THREE bedrooms, large useful attic space used as a LARGE BEDROOM AND EN SUITE . GREAT LOCATION ON THE MARINE ESTATE WALKING DISTANCE OF SHOPS AND LEIGH STATION.Ref ett5360

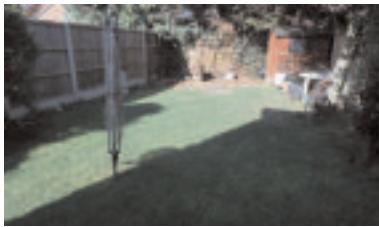
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HULLBRIDGE £259,995

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RAYLEIGH £299,995

A rare opportunity to purchase this TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW situated along one of Rayleigh's premier turnings, just moments from Town & Station. The deceptively spacious accommodation includes a recently refitted shower room, good size lounge / diner and NO ONWARD CHAIN. EPC rating E.

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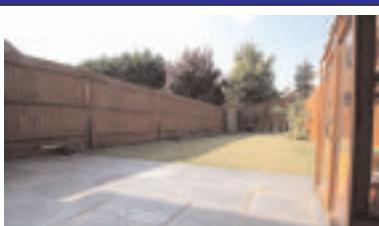
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BENFLEET £475,000

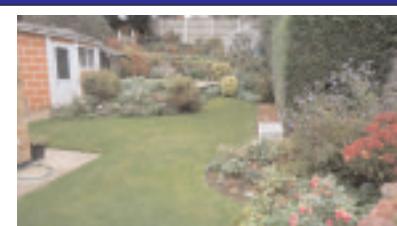
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The property includes a delightful 150ft rear garden PLUS a FULLY SELF CONTAINED ANNEXE. Viewing of this fine home is essential. EPC rating E & D



RAYLEIGH £285,000

The property is situated in this sought after location, a short distance from Rayleigh station, bus routes in Rayleigh & Chelmsford and local amenities. We feel this property will generate a lot of interest therefore we would advise you to book an early appointment to view to avoid disappointment. EPC rating C.



RAYLEIGH £325,000

An exciting opportunity to purchase this THREE BEDROOM semi detached bungalow set within easy reach of Town and Station. The property features a delightful rear garden approaching 100' in length and offers potential to extend (subject to planning consent) EPC rating D.

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Hockley £475,000



Well appointed Detached 4 Bedroom Family House being maintained in excellent decorative order and enhanced with a new fitted Kitchen and bathroom suite. The property stands in a favoured location, close to shops, station and picturesque Hockley Woods. Viewing Highly Recommended. No Onward Chain.

Hockley £750,000



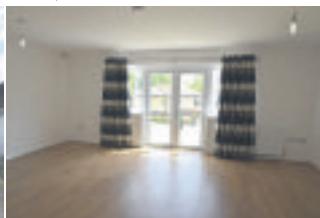
Standing in this select and private mews location with gated access, is this superb Queen Anne style, 5 bedroom family residence that afford spacious and beautifully appointed living accommodation. Close to village centre and Hockley Station.

South Fambridge £795,000



A unique opportunity to acquire this extremely attractive 3 Bedroom Chalet Bungalow that occupies a wide road frontage in this quiet village location in grounds of approximately one acre with superb uninterrupted views of the Crouch Valley.

Hockley £350,000



Spacious 3 Double Bedroom Semi-Detached House with en-suites to all bedrooms. Large Lounge and spacious fitted Kitchen/Diner. Infra Red automatic lighting and Electric Kingspan Heating System. DDA Compliant Entrance Doors and a Platform Lift in addition to the stairs. No Onward Chain.

Hockley £275,000



Delightful Semi-Detached 2 Bedroom Bungalow that has been maintained in excellent decorative order throughout standing in this quite cul-de-sac location and within very close proximity of Hockley Village Centre and Station.

Hockley £305,000



A most attractive Semi-Detached 2 Double Bedroom Extended Chalet standing in this highly favoured residential location being within close proximity of the picturesque Hockley Woods. There is also a 100 feet South Facing secluded garden. The property is being offered with No Onward Chain.

team

teamprop.co.uk



**COUNTRYSIDE
ESTATES**

COUNTRYSIDE ESTATES IS RE-AFFIRMED AS RAYLEIGH'S LOCAL EXPERT

Local estate agent, IAN LAW from RAYLEIGH has been re-affirmed as their area's Local Expert by Relocation Agent Network.

COUNTRYSIDE ESTATES were reaffirmed at the 2015 Relocation Agent Network Conference, which took place at the Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel in Central London on Friday 13 November.

Relocation Agent Network are a national network of selected estate agents across England, Scotland and Wales. COUNTRYSIDE ESTATES were handpicked to be a member of the Network, based on strict criteria such as quality of service, local knowledge and professionalism.

Helping the Customer

Through its affiliation to Cartus, the premier provider of relocation services, Relocation Agent Network members help Cartus assist relocating families, offering COUNTRYSIDE ESTATES customers an additional channel of buyer when selling their property. In

addition, members also help their customers through their 'Referral Network', which allows COUNTRYSIDE ESTATES to help people who are looking to move out of the local area by referring them to a Relocation Agent in the location they are moving to.

The Conference day included a line-up of keynote speakers, interactive sessions and a trade exhibition. The day ended in an evening black tie Awards Dinner, hosted by well-known comedian, Tim Vine.

Relocation Agent Network Managing Director, Richard Tucker said, "We are proud to have re-affirmed COUNTRYSIDE ESTATES'S Relocation Agent Network membership. They were specially selected to join us and in our opinion, are Rayleigh's Local Expert for buying and selling."

For further information, please contact Ian Law, Countryside Estates, 01268 741164 and/or email ian@countrysideestates.co.uk

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Landlord Question

When is the best time of year to find tenants?

Think Property Answer

While there is no such thing as a safe investment, landlords will welcome the news that the UK housing marketing is showing promising signs of recovery.

Over the last 18 months, the British public have been on the move, and chances are that this trend will continue into the next year. While it's not unusual to hear people panicking that they won't be "In for Christmas", new research highlights that in an ideal world we would take a more organised approach, being unpacked and settled in before the start of summer.

When they asked 1,000 people across the UK: "In an ideal world, in which quarter would you move home?" over half of their respondents said they would prefer to move between April and June, with as few as 6.79% indicating a preference for October-December.

Such a clear preference should certainly be food for thought for Britain's landlords, particularly those developing properties with future tenants in mind, ensuring properties are ready to welcome tenants within this optimal quarter. Supply and demand can have the power to dictate the yield of a property and those who are struggling to let a property in these winter months should take comfort that their property is likely to become more desirable as spring approaches.

As well as highlighting the preference for April to June upheaval, research also outlines a few points which may further illuminate the British public's preference for moving home.

Whatever the time of year Think Property always have good quality tenants, so if you need one fast call us on 01702 470 625



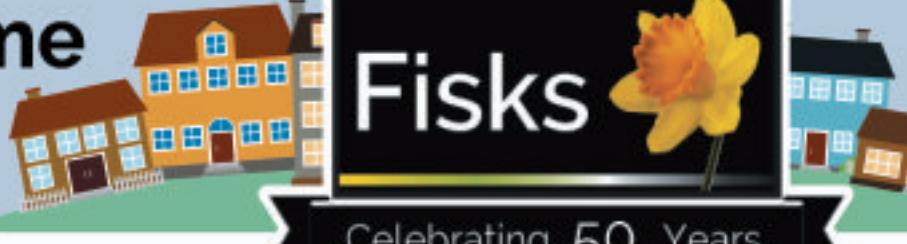
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Oak Walk £279,995

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Southwold Crescent £265,000

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Brackendale Court £140,000

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- ** Close to Thames Drive and Leigh Station
- ** Good size Lounge
- ** 2 Bedrooms



£750pcm

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- ** Working Tenants only
- ** Early Viewing Advised

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PLEASE CALL NOW FOR AN APPRAISAL.

Motoring

Mid-life makeover refreshes VW Jetta

By Enda Mullen

THE Jetta has always been a somewhat forgotten and overlooked member of the Volkswagen family.

Sitting somewhere between the Golf and the Passat it could easily be dismissed as simply a saloon version of the Golf.

While it hasn't been around as long as Volkswagen's long-serving hatchback, the Jetta is hardly a newcomer. It's been available in some form or other since 1979, albeit with a few name changes along the way.

The Jetta does share its underpinnings with the Golf, so comparisons with it are expected.

Despite that common ground, in reality the Jetta is very much a scaled-down Passat, though to be fair it does have its own distinct identity and it's not a bad looking compact saloon.

The current incarnation of the Jetta is the result of a mid-life makeover that refreshes rather than radically overhauls the car.

The main changes are styling enhancements front and rear, including a more eye-catching grille and trim revisions which offer more variety and equipment.

The latest Jetta also benefits from Volkswagen's fuel-efficient BlueMotion technology across the range. The cabin is roomy and pleasant and has a suitably upmarket feel to it thanks to Volkswagen's high quality fixtures and fittings and attention to detail.



VALUE FOR MONEY: Volkswagen Jetta 2.0 TDI SE DSG

The build quality is as sturdy as one would expect – another VW trademark.

The instrumentation and switchgear also exude an essence of quality – soft touch plastics abound and everything is wonderfully intuitive and easy to use.

Engine-wise there's a raft of petrol and diesel options to choose from.

Volkswagen's 2.0-litre diesel engine might have been the subject of much scrutiny and criticism of late with the ongoing emissions saga but there's no disputing it's a capable performer – smooth, refined and potent in equal measure.

Combined with Volkswagen's proven DSG automatic gearbox it makes for a car that can deliver decent performance and everyday usability.

It's one of the reasons diesel cars have done so well and this one will complete the 0-60mph sprint in under nine seconds while at the same time boasts a combined fuel economy figure of more than 60mpg.

Opt for a manual and economy is closer to 70mpg.

It handles well too, feeling sharp, agile and poised, with just enough of a hint of wolf in sheep's clothing for what is essentially a fair-

ly standard family car. A comfortable and cosseted ride adds to the overall driving experience. While most families tend to opt for traditional hatchbacks, or the ever increasing crop of crossovers in all their shapes and sizes, the Jetta offers a tempting alternative.

While it doesn't have hatchback-style seat folding versatility it has a whopping 510 litres of boot space – 130 litres more than a Golf.

All models, S, SE and GT come generously equipped and include DAB digital radio, ESC electronic stability control, electric windows and air conditioning.

The Jetta's relative anonymity is arguably one of its strengths.

If the idea of a car that isn't two-a-penny on UK roads appeals then it comes close to ticking all the boxes and is good value for money too.

FAST FACTS

Price: £23,850

Mechanical: 150ps, 1,968cc, four-cylinder diesel engine driving front wheels via seven-speed automatic gearbox

Max speed: 135mph

0-62mph: 8.9 seconds

Combined mpg: 62.8

Insurance group: 32

CO2 emissions: 120g/km

BiK rating: 20%

Warranty: Three years/60,000 miles

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seeks woman of any nationality for
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TRUE gent seeking slim lady for
fun and mutually rewarding
enjoyment. I have my own flat and
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MALE white, 60's, genuine, kind,
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BLUES EXTEND UNBEATEN RUN

Football

**Southend United 0
Wigan Athletic 0**

**Brian Jeeves reporting from
Roots Hall Stadium**

SOUTHEND United extended their unbeaten Sky Bet League One sequence to six matches after this hard fought goalless encounter.

Blues went into the game full of confidence after an eye-catching 5-2 victory over Oldham Athletic at Boundary Park during the week.

However, much fancied Wigan offered the Blues a different type of challenge. The Latics arrived at Roots Hall having lost only once in 12 outings.

Blues started brightly and almost grabbed an early advantage when Ryan Leonard thundered against the face of the crossbar following a well-drilled flag-kick routine involving Ben Coker.

Shortly afterwards, Blues fans were fuming after David Mooney was floored by Latics skipper Jason Pearce. Referee Keith Stroud chose to caution the Blues man after deeming his actions theatrical.

Jack Payne was next to test the visitors' resolve, but former West Ham goalkeeper Jussi Jaaskelainen smothered his fizzing effort at the second attempt. Wigan hadn't offered much in the way of an attacking threat, but they came close to breaking the dead-

lock when Leon Barnett met Max Power's corner first time. Will Atkinson on this occasion proving to be Blues hero, hacking off the line in the nick of time.

After the break it was the Latics who were first to threaten. Again Barnett crisply met a Power corner, this time Blues keeper Daniel Bentley did well to turn the effort over. Then Bentley produced a fantastic stop as Reece James's piledriver looked destined for the net. In response Latics defender Donervon Daniels did well to cut out Payne's troublesome centre as Mooney lurked with intent.

Skipper John White was a whisker away from opening the Blues account, but his shot on the turn was just the wrong side of an upright.

And the home faithful were out of their seats again soon after as the tenacious Payne's cross eluded the onrushing Mooney.

Adam Barrett blocked Power's strike as Wigan turned up the heat, meanwhile at the other end Mooney's snap shot from distance did little to trouble Jaaskelainen.

In the closing stages Mooney tested Jaaskelainen with an angled drive while Wigan substitute Craig Davies's attempt was wayward and Barnett clipped the bar as the teams continued to trade chances.

Speaking after the game, a contented Blues boss Phil Brown said: "We always thought that it was going to be



BOSS: Phil Brown

tight and we always thought that one goal would probably win it. Both managers being tactically aware of what the opposition could throw at you, a first goal and you'd probably shut up shop. You've got to make sure it's you that gets the first goal. However, it never happened.

"We did have our moments. We hit the crossbar, they hit the crossbar, we had a penalty shout, they had a penalty shout.

But overall you'd say a draw is a fair result. It was two good footballing teams, both sides wanted to play.

"I thought we got it right in the first half, we were tactically aware of what they were trying to do. But they changed their system a little bit and brought personnel on."

"But we've worked to a game plan, the only downside is that we didn't create that great opportunity that would have won us the game."

Blues winger Kevan Hurst said: "It was a tough match, they've got some good players. It shows how far we've come as we are disappointed at getting a draw against Wigan who two years ago were a Premier League side."

Southend United are next in action on Tuesday, December 8 when Millwall are the visitors to Roots Hall in the Southern Area semi-final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy (7.45pm).

Southend United: Daniel Bentley, John White (Capt), Ben Coker, Adam Thompson, David Mooney, Jack Payne, Will Atkinson (Joe Pigott), Kevan Hurst, Ryan Leonard, Glen Rea, Adam Barrett. Subs not used: Ted Smith, Luke Prosser, Cian Bolger, Luke O'Neil, Jason Williams, Jack Bridge

Wigan Athletic: Jussi Jaaskelainen, Reece James, Donervon Daniels, Max Power, Chris McCann (David Perkins), Don Cowie, Will Grigg (Michael Jacobs), Alex Revell, Francisco Junior (Craig Davies), Leon Barnett, Jason Pearce (Capt). Subs not used: Richard O'Donnell, Jordan Flores, Tim Chow, Jordy Hiwula

Referee: Keith Stroud
Assistants: Elliott Kaye and Leo Venamore
Fourth Official: Nicholas Cooper
Attendance: 7,117

Non-league round-up

Purcell the hat-trick hero

By Brian Jeeves

GEORGE Purcell was once again the man in form as AFC Hornchurch put Haringey Borough to the sword at Bridge Avenue.

Purcell grabbed an impressive hat-trick while Abs Thompson was also on target as the Urchins won this Ryman League One North clash 4-1.

Jonathan Nzengo and Tyrone Scarlett scored as BarkingSide earned a point from a 2-2 draw at Redbridge, and Liam Thomas, Jack Barham and George Cole found the net for Heybridge Swifts in an entertaining 3-3 draw with Waltham Abbey.

But there was little to celebrate for the region's other Ryman North clubs.

Aveley went down 4-2 at home to Brightlingsea Regent, while Great Wakering Rovers fared even worse, falling 5-1 to Dereham Town at Burroughs Park.

And it was a defeat for Romford as well, who went down by the odd goal in five at home to Cray Wanderers.

In the Ryman Premier Division, Harrison Chatting, Steve Sheehan and former West Ham United man Tony Stokes hit the goals as Canvey Island saw off Leatherhead 3-1 at Park Lane.

Quentin Monville gave Billericay Town an early lead against Tonbridge Angels at New Lodge.

However, the visitors hit back through Thomas Parkinson before the break to earn a share of the spoils.

But Brentwood Town remain in relegation trouble after crashing 4-0 at Needham Market.

Braintree Town played out a goalless National League draw with former Football League outfit Torquay United at Cressing Road.

In the National South Ben Greenhalgh scored at the end of each half to earn Concord Rangers a vital 2-0 win over Maidenhead United at the Aspects Arena.

Grays Athletic and those famous non-leaguers Corinthian Casuals will have to try again after their FA Trophy third qualifying round tie ended 0-0.

In the Essex Senior League Basildon United were shocked by Takeley at Gardiners Close. Michael Ogboin, Andrew Reed and Bradley Smith found the net as the visitors ran out 3-0 winners.

Reece Brandon and Luke Hornsley grabbed late goals as Hullbridge Sports edged out Waltham Forest at Lower Road, while FC Romania were in good form, hitting four without reply against Clapton at the Old Spotted Dog.

Elsewhere in the ESL Ilford and Sporting Bengal United played out a 3-3 draw at the Cricklefield Stadium, and despite a Rhys Fatts goal Southend Manor were beaten at Southchurch Park Arena by Eton Manor.

In selected action from the ProKit UK Essex Olympian League Premier Division, Harold Hill went down 5-3 at home to Hannakins Farm, while Harold Wood Athletic saw off Kelvedon Hatch 2-0.

Saxons lose again as lower teams close in

Rugby

Southend Saxons 18 Dorking 22
THE pack is closing in on Southend Saxons. They have not won for three games, two of which were at home.

They remain in eighth place but are now only nine points ahead of Worthing in 14th place.

They are missing four players through injury and it shows. Sam Fombo and Daniel Legge from the forwards and Sonny Gay and Iain Meads, centre and full-back respectively. It affects their shape and line-outs particularly.

Saturday's game against struggling Dorking was no exception. Despite taking an early lead through a penalty kick from Tom Ashton and a try from Kris Chesney they soon looked out of sorts and played the same stuttering rugby of the past few weeks.

The strong wind made things difficult for both sides but Southend insisted on kicking for position and throwing long at line-outs, most of which they lost.

Dorking centre Noble pulled three points back and then just before half-



Todd Bailey on the charge for Saxons

time stand-off Pimlow broke straight through the Saxons' defensive line to

level the scores at 8-8.
The game resumed with Dorking

perceiving a weakness through the middle. They attacked the home side's centre until it broke again allowing second row Elbow through.

Noble added the extras and the score moved to 8-15.

Ten minutes later Brad Burr kicked a penalty and reduced the difference to four points but it was not long until Dorking's speedy winger Marfo broke through and touched down. The conversion from Noble took Dorking into a 22-11 lead with 20 minutes to go.

Southend reasserted themselves but still kept taking the wrong options having gained advantage. The ball did not bounce kindly on a couple of occasions but they kept at it until finally back row Krinj hustled through and touched down.

Burr's kick sailed over and they had got back to within four points at 18-22. Despite trying until the end they were not able to score again and had to settle for just one losing bonus point.

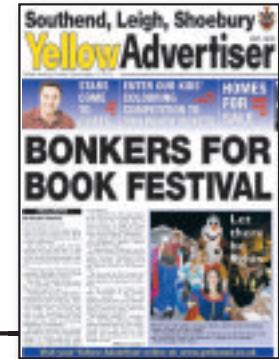
Next week's away game is at Bury St Edmunds and Saxons will need to buck up considerably to get a favourable result.

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